



# A Place to Hang the Moon

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## Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

### January 2022 Book of the Month



#### Pre-reading questions

1. If you were stuck on a deserted island and could only have one book to read, what would it be and why?
2. The main characters of *A Place to Hang the Moon* are proper bibliophiles. Define *bibliophile*. Would you describe yourself as one? Why or why not?
3. *A Place to Hang the Moon* takes place during World War II. What do you know about this time period? Share some of your knowledge with your classmates.
4. Imagine you were having to go to a new school. How would you want someone to treat you? If a new student came to your school, how might you make them feel welcome?

#### Post-reading questions

1. William has a lot of responsibility as the oldest Pearce sibling. What are some of his responsibilities? Should these really be his job? How do these responsibilities wear him down?
2. What do you think of Mr. Engersoll's plan for the children to find a suitable family to adopt them? Why must they keep their inheritance secret? Edmund thinks this is lying, but Mr. Engersoll says it is "omitting the truth." What is the difference between the two?
3. Anna asks William to tell them something about their parents each night. What is the one story that is absolutely true? Why does he have to embellish the stories at times? What does it mean to have "hung the moon"? How do you think each of the Pearce children would describe the perfect grown-up to take care of them?
4. Edmund is incredibly stubborn. How can stubbornness be a strength and how can it be a weakness? How does having this trait work out for Edmund throughout the story? What do you think Mrs. Muller meant by, "I rather think we would all do well to have a bit more Edmund in us."
5. When packing for the evacuation, the children are told they can bring a favorite storybook. How does each of the Pearce sibling's choices reflect their personalities?
6. The Pearce family is made up of very different children but they still fit together like puzzle pieces. What are their individual strengths and weaknesses? What are some examples of how one sibling's strength helps another's weakness?
7. What makes Mrs. Muller a great librarian?
8. What was your first hint that Auntie Nellie and the other villagers did not like Mrs. Muller? Why don't they like Mrs. Muller?
9. Discuss this quote, "As guests in town, we are unknown and therefore the easiest to suspect."
10. Compare the homes of the Forresters and the Griffiths. How are they different? How does each household treat the Pearces? What about their situations make them different?
11. How did the rat catching experience change Edmund? How did he start helping out William carry the responsibility of the family?

12. How does Mrs. Muller treat the Pearce children while they stay with her? How is this different from their grandmother and their other billets? How does she care for each sibling individually? How do the children help Mrs. Muller?

### **Post-reading activities**

1. After finishing the book, write a book review or film a book review vlog sharing your opinion with others. If you loved the book, try to convince other readers to give it a try. Check out the competition page on our website for more information. Ask your advisor to submit your finished project to the It List Book Review Blog Article or the It List Book Review Vlog.
2. If you could redesign the cover of this book, how would you do so? Check out our website to learn more about the Student Book Choice Digital Book Redesign and create your own cover for A Place to Hang the Moon. Ask your advisor to submit your finished work in the competition.
3. Pretend you are one of the characters from the book and write a letter to the author. If you were this character, what would you want the author to know? Are there any questions you would want answered? Be sure to check out the Student Book Choice Character to Author Letter competition instructions on our website. Ask your adviser to submit your finished work in order to compete.

### **More About This Book**

Author's Website: [www.katealbus.com](http://www.katealbus.com)

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

[https://holidayhouse.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/A\\_Place\\_to\\_Hang\\_the\\_Moon\\_Educators\\_Guide.pdf](https://holidayhouse.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/A_Place_to_Hang_the_Moon_Educators_Guide.pdf)

More info: <https://www.katealbus.com/resources>

1st chapter read-aloud: <https://youtu.be/JOF57g8JYSg>